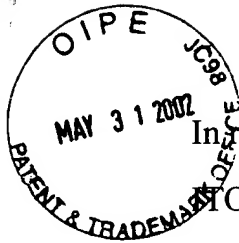


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



In re Patent Application of  
TOH

Serial No. 09/885,007

Filed: June 21, 2001

For: SPECIMEN-INSPECTION PREPROCESSING  
APPARATUS

Atty. Ref.: 160-359

Group: 1743

Examiner:

\* \* \* \* \*

May 31, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Attention is invited to the attached copy of an Official Action mailed April 2, 2002 with respect to a counterpart foreign patent application in Japan and a copy of each document cited in it, JP11-316233, JP 2000-88861, JP 10-148633 and JP 4-372861, all Japanese laid-open publications, together with a completed Form PTO-1449.

A concise explanation of the pertinence of each reference is not included nor is an English translation available. An English translation of the Official Action, copy attached, is provided in lieu of a concise explanation; see M.P.E.P. §609.A(3).

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1)].

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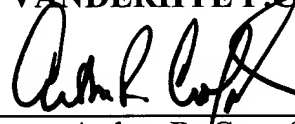
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The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner [Commissioner's Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 12-25 at 25].

Respectfully submitted,

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